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Letter dated 23 July 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement concerning Georgia, the recent attack on the Liberty Institute in Tbilisi and other incidents, issued on 22 July 2002 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ellen Margarethe **Løj**
Permanent Representative of Denmark
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 23 July 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement concerning Georgia, the recent attack on the Liberty Institute in Tbilisi and other incidents, issued on 22 July 2002 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union expresses its deep concern about the attack carried out on 10 July 2002 against the Liberty Institute Centre in Tbilisi. This attack, as well as other incidents against non-governmental and religious organizations, undermines freedom of thought and religion in Georgia.

The European Union calls on the Government of Georgia to respect its commitments as a member of the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. All Georgian citizens have the legitimate right to engage in peaceful activities, without fear of criminal and violent acts. Failure to improve the current security environment and consolidate the rule of law will negatively influence both the political and economic situation in Georgia.

The European Union calls upon the Government of Georgia to do all in its power to ensure a rapid and thorough investigation into the incident, so as to bring to justice those responsible for the attack. The European Union further invites the Georgian authorities to take appropriate measures to ensure the security of non-governmental and religious organizations as well as their staff.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.